

**Catherine's Walk, Athersley
Landscape Management Plan
ENGIE Regeneration Ltd**

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Landscape Management Plan

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1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 The Landscape Management Plan has been produced by Ecus Ltd on behalf of ENGIE Regeneration Ltd in support of a proposed development at Catherine's Walk, Athersley, hereafter referred to as 'the site'. The development site is located off an existing road, Catherine's Walk north Barnsley.
- 1.1.2 A full planning application (2017/1539) has been granted for the proposed residential development. The scheme consists of a residential development of approximately 54 dwellings, a Public Open Space to the site frontage and associated infrastructure including roads.
- 1.1.3 This Plan has been written to ensure the successful aftercare of the landscaping for the entire site in relation to the soft landscape only and should be read in conjunction with latest versions of the following drawings and reports:
- Soft Landscape Plans as shown on Ecus Ltd drawing numbers LD-11034-01 – LD-11034-04;
 - Engineer's drawings;
 - Architect's drawings; and
 - Phase 1 Habitat Survey Report produced by JCA, reference 13749c/JoC, October 2017.
- 1.1.4 This soft landscape management plan is intended for a 10 year period and should be reviewed and amended as necessary thereafter. The management plan is structured as follows:
- Introduction (as above).
 - Design objectives outlining the existing site and proposed scheme, demonstrating the different planting types and habitat creation measures.
 - General and long term maintenance objectives.
 - Management responsibilities.
 - Maintenance schedule.

2. Design Objectives

The Existing Site

- 2.1.1 Laithes Primary School playing fields border the site to the south west. The Athersley South Primary School playing fields border the site to the south. Residential dwellings lie to north and east of the site.
- 2.1.2 The site is currently dominated by amenity grassland with some scrub and scattered trees to the west and a hedgerow with intermittent broadleaved trees along the eastern boundary of the site.

The Proposed Development

- 2.1.3 The proposal comprises the development of 54no. housing plots with associated cul-de-sac access roads, drives and gardens. A Public Open Space (POS) area is located at the north of the site at the junction between Edwin's Close and Catherine's Walk. Tree, shrub, bulb and amenity grassland planting in this area will provide an informal recreation area and pleasant green frontage to the development.
- 2.1.4 Vehicular access into the development is provided at one location from Catherine's Walk to the north of the site.

Landscape Design Objectives

- 2.1.5 The landscape aims to:
- Contribute to the successful integration of the development within its environment.
 - Provide a unified and attractive residential setting with seasonal interest.
 - Soften the built form and create a defensible buffer to buildings and private spaces.

Planting Proposals and Specification

- 2.1.6 Reference should be made to the following Ecus Ltd drawings for the detailed planting proposals:
- Drawings 11034-LD-01, 11034-LD-02 and 11034-LD-03 for planting plans;
 - 11034-LD-03 for plant schedule; and
 - 11034-LD-04 for outline planting specification.
- 2.1.7 As noted in the outline specification, all plant material is to be supplied in accordance with HTA National Plant Specification. All planting to be local provenance wherever possible and from local supplier.
- 2.1.8 Soft landscape works shall be completed in the first available planting season following the substantial completion of the development.
- 2.1.9 The planting scheme consists of the following:
- Native hedgerow;

- Extra heavy standard and selected standard tree planting in soft landscape;
- Ornamental hedges;
- Specimen shrub planting;
- Semi-native shrub planting;
- Ornamental planting consisting of shrubs, climbers and herbaceous plants;
- Low maintenance groundcover mix;
- Naturalised bulb planting in grass; and
- Amenity grassland.

2.1.10 The JCA Phase 1 Habitat Survey Report reference 13749c/JoC dated 31st October 2017 considers the site to contain habitats of low to moderate ecological value. The amenity grassland has limited ecological value whilst the scrub vegetation, scattered trees and hedgerow with intermittent trees have moderate ecological value. Species currently present on site include hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), willow (*Salix sp.*) and hybrid black poplar (*Populus x Canadensis*).

2.1.11 Existing trees and scrub on site are proposed for removal to accommodate the development. Replacement trees and other vertical greening elements such as climbers are proposed to soften and green views of built development.

2.1.12 With regards to the landscape design, the JCA Phase 1 Habitat Survey Report recommends the following mitigation for the removed vegetation.

The removal of any vegetation on site should occur outside of the bird nesting season. If this is not possible, a nesting survey should be conducted immediately prior to any works beginning to ensure that no birds are currently nesting and that any young have fledged. See paragraph 3.1.2.

The development will result in the loss of some ecological features, specifically the scrub vegetation and scattered trees to the west of the site. The proposals intend to incorporate newly planted trees into the gardens of the residential properties, which will mitigate the loss of these habitats and increase biodiversity on site post-development. Care should be taken to ensure that these trees are correctly planted and maintained and that suitable, native species are selected.

2.1.13 The soft landscape design includes some of the species listed above as well as other native species, species currently thriving in the local area and species suitable for the development.

2.1.14 Extra heavy standard trees are proposed on frontages where space allows. As an alternative to trees, specimen shrubs are proposed at frontages where space is limited. Small-medium sized trees are proposed within rear gardens along boundaries of the development. Rear garden trees are to be planted at selected standard and standard size with species including native field maple (*Acer campestre*), rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), silver birch (*Betula pendula*) and fruit trees. The implementation of the planting of trees on the development should be within the first planting season.

2.1.15 Low maintenance plant species have been selected. The plant palette also aims to enhance site biodiversity, in particular for common birds, bats, insects and bees by offering ecological interest through food, habitat and connectivity.

General Maintenance Objectives for the Establishment Period to Ten Years

2.1.16 General maintenance objectives for the site are as follows:

- To create an attractive environment that contributes to the well being of the residents.
- To ensure the longevity of new areas of landscape planting and seeding through regular and effective management and maintenance.
- Maintenance during the establishment phase for new planting, to include watering, replacement planting of dead or dying plants, adjustment of stakes and ties.
- To maintain attractive and healthy plant mixes.
- To maintain an attractive frontage to the development by maintaining the POS area.
- To achieve an environmentally and economically sustainable management level for the site that is sensitive to future changes.
- To create a well managed appearance for the development, prevent planting encroachment onto paths and maintain good visual surveillance across the development.
- To use preventative measures to minimise maintenance input generally across the development i.e. use of bark mulch to control weeds and reduce the need for watering.
- To provide additional habitat structure and foraging/sheltering opportunities for invertebrates, birds and small mammals through new planting.
- To maximise the provision and establishment of native species and species of local provenance that are appropriate to the immediate surrounds and local area.

Long-term Maintenance Objectives

2.1.17 Detailed maintenance objectives are listed below. These objectives will continue in the long-term as the objectives remain consistent. In general the objectives relating to the soft landscape are to retain key views for natural surveillance into and across public spaces, to allow for potential periodic thinning of plant beds should beds become excessively overcrowded, to remove dead or damaged plants and undertake further replacement planting where necessary and reinstate any grassed areas subject to erosion or damage.

2.1.18 Trees should continue to be monitored on an annual basis and following any storm events or strong winds. Any health and safety works should be prioritised within public open space or adjacent paths.

3. Management Responsibilities

- 3.1.1 This management report is for the purpose of managing the soft landscape areas. The areas are to be managed by a management company (yet to be confirmed at the time of writing this report), until plots are purchased and maintenance responsibilities of individual plots has been passed onto house purchasers. Management of the POS area will remain with the management company.

Restrictions and Limitations for Maintenance Operations

- 3.1.2 Should any trees or vegetation require extensive thinning or removal in the future, works should be undertaken outside bird breeding season, which is March to August inclusive, where feasible. If works cannot be scheduled outside these months, a suitably experienced ecologist should undertake a nesting bird check no more than 72 hours prior to the proposed works.

Plant Replacements

- 3.1.3 Any plants that fail to establish within a period of five years are to be replaced in the next planting season with others of similar size and species unless written consent is provided by the Local Planning Authority to vary the approved details.
- 3.1.4 Any trees, shrubs or other planting that die, become damaged or are removed within a period of 5 years following the first occupation of the development are to be replaced in the next planting season with other plants of similar size and species, unless written consent is provided by the Local Authority to vary the approved details.
- 3.1.5 After five years it is recommended that yearly site inspections occur to record site conditions and to determine whether replacement planting or over-seeding is required to maintain a high quality landscape scheme that is consistent with the original objectives. Work only to be undertaken following client approval.

4. Maintenance Schedule

- 4.1.1 The following schedule outlines the key management objectives for each landscape type within the site.
- 4.1.2 The schedule outlines recommended maintenance operations, the appropriate times of year they should be undertaken and the recommended frequency each year in order to achieve these objectives. The schedule details operations that are recommended for the establishment phase up to five years following implementation and also those operations required in the mid to long-term.
- 4.1.3 The landscape management plan is to be carried out as approved to ensure the successful aftercare of the landscaping.

TABLE 1: 5 Year Maintenance Schedule

Component	Management Objectives	Code	Operation(s)	Time of Year	Frequency (per Year)	Year 1-5
1. General maintenance requirements to all planted areas, unless otherwise stated in the detailed schedule below	To maintain high standard planting scheme across site and ensure healthy establishment of plants.	A	Inspection	March-September	Annually	x
		B	Inspect tree stakes, ties and shelters and replace where necessary.			
		C	Watering - during establishment and to ensure continued thriving	As necessary during dry spells, or indicated in the detailed schedule below.	As required- daily in dry spells mainly April- September.	x
		D	Reform new tree / shrub planting	February and after strong winds	Annually and as required following inspection.	x
		E	Removal of debris and litter	Throughout	Each maintenance visit.	x
		F	Plant replacements and reinstatement to Year 5 when instructed	November to March	Annually next following planting season.	x
		G	Fertiliser	March	Annually	x
		H	Top up mulch to 75mm depth bark (refer to specification)	November	Annually	x
2. New tree planting (incl. standard trees).	To ensure that trees establish and remain in a healthy condition.	A	Establishment maintenance (weed control, fertiliser, tree guy wires, refirming, formative pruning)	As necessary following inspection	As required	x
		B	Maintain 1m diameter weed free area, adjust soil and maintain depth of mulch	As necessary following inspection	As required	x
3. Native Hedgerow	To ensure the healthy establishment of new	A	Establishment pruning - heavy trim sides first year to encourage bushy	November-March	First year	x

	hedgerows. To encourage bushy side growth of hedgerow and maintain A- shaped profile once established. To provide more fruit, berries, flowers and nesting opportunities. To maintain to a maximum height of 1.8m. To protect from rabbit damage during establishment phase.		side growth followed by light trimming to sides until established.			
		B	Trimming - alternate sides on an annual basis to promote berrying/ fruit.	November-February	Once, annually on alternate sides, from Year 2 onwards.	x
4. Low ornamental hedge	To establish a dense hedge of consistent height and width. To control weed growth.	A	Pruning to encourage best display of given species, taking into account of natural habit and form:			
			a) Winter flowering	Prune spring	Annually	x
			b) Shrubs flowering between March and July	Prune immediately after flowering	Annually	x
			c) Shrubs flowering between July and October	Prune back to old wood in winter	Annually	x
5. Ornamental planting – shrubs and herbaceous material	To provide attractive and healthy landscape year-round. To create healthy attractive plant mixes. To control weed growth.	A	Pruning to encourage best display of given species, taking into account of natural habit and form:			
			a) Winter flowering	Prune spring	Annually	x
			b) Shrubs flowering between March and July	Prune immediately after flowering	Annually	x

			c) Shrubs flowering between July and October	Prune back to old wood in winter	Annually	x
		B	Thinning	As necessary following inspection	Annually if required	x
		C	Weed control	March-September	As required	x
		D	Soil aeration	April	As required	x
		E	Soil level readjustment/ edging	Spring	Annually	x
		F	All herbaceous perennials and ornamental grasses that die back in winter to soil level can be cut back in autumn and winter, using the following guidance: • Using a knife, shears or secateurs, cut stems close to the 'crown' or dormant base of the plant. • If there is any young growth, cut to just above it. • Take the opportunity to remove weeds, digging out those with thick or fleshy roots. • Cut back perennials that produce leaves and flower stems from below the soil level, to soil level. • Less severely cut back perennials showing new basal	Autumn/winter	Annually	x

			shoot growth (e.g. Sedum). - Any attractive dead stems or flower heads can be left until early spring to provide structural interest throughout the winter. - Separate and dispose of diseased material (showing signs of leaf-spots, mildew and rusts, for example).			
		G	Evergreen perennials are not to be cut back, but should be tidied during spring and summer by removing dead foliage.	Spring and summer	Annually	x
		H	Thinning herbaceous perennials	Spring	As required	x
		I	Maintain climber growth and train along wires where necessary	March-September	As required	x
6. Amenity Grassland	Good sward of even colour and smooth gradients. Height maximum 50mm.	A	Reinstatement of eroded / damaged areas:	May-September	As required	x
		B	Cutting, remove arisings, trim edges and collect trimmings- remove	April-October Note: allow six weeks between end of flowering to cutting bulbs areas.	15 visits. Maintain 50-70mm height. Approx. every 2 weeks in growing season.	x
		C	Reforming edges to paths	Autumn	Annually	x
		D	Fertiliser-Spring	April	Annually	x
		E	Fertiliser-Autumn	October	Annually	x
		F	Light scarification / raking	March	Annually (if required)	x

		G	Weed control	March-October	As required	
7. Bulbs	To display to best advantage.	A	Areas of bulbs shall be left uncut until after they have finished flowering and their foliage yellowed and died back, after which they shall be cut as part of the routine grass cutting regime (see 6 above).	Throughout, according to flowering time.	As required	x